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EDC 102

FAE Chapt 2 & 3 Reflection

After reading Chapter 2 in Foundations of American Education, there were a few things that I did find very interesting and surprising. As uneducated as this may sound, I almost forgot before reading this that education hasn’t been around forever and had to start somewhere. I found it really interesting how it used to work in the Greek city states with very little intellectual knowledge. I also found it very interesting how the Roman Catholic Church had such an influence on education. While I am aware catholic schools are definitely still around today, I feel like they aren’t nearly as prevalent as they used to be. I find it interesting when I think about the fact that my own dad and all his siblings and friends attended catholic school, but none of my own friends or siblings did. I also was not entirely aware that during the Renaissance the common people were thought to be unworthy of education. What I found most interesting about this entire chapter was the fact that it made me realize how my personal opportunity to be educated would be so different if I grew up during times like the Renaissance or Reformation.

After reading Chapter 3 I wasn’t as surprised as when I read chapter 2, but I definitely read many things that are relevant to today’s educational contexts. For example, after reading chapter 2 it is very clear to me that there have been many changes and improvements over the years. It is very noticeable that schools are ten times better equipped for special needs kids nowadays. The Normal Schools section of this chapter really interested me. I actually had no idea that ever existed and that they were what later turned into state colleges. The thought of students entering a two-year teacher training program just after elementary school is mind boggling to think nowadays. I also think it is very interesting to think that the real changes and improvements in education started with the increasing population which led to an increasing demand for elementary school teachers and from that point the demand continued to increase on every level. It makes me wonder that if the population of the US didn’t increase, would education be as advanced as it is today?